

The University of Dublin

Trinity College

Draft Minutes of the Student Life Committee

25th February 2016

Present: Prof. Kevin O’Kelly (Dean of Students (Chair); Ms. Isolde Harpur (Library); Mr Conor Clancy (SU Welfare Officer); Ms. Katie Crowther (GSU President); Mr Seán Gannon (Director, Careers Advisory Service); Fr. Peter Sexton (Chaplaincy); Dr. David McGrath (Director, College Health Service); Dr. Claire Laudet (Senior Tutor); Ms Deirdre Flynn (Director, Student Counselling Service); Ms. Lee Mills (Representing John Murphy, Information Systems Services); Ms. Lynn Ruane (President TCDSU); Mr Brendan Tangney (Warden, Trinity Hall).

Apologies: Mr Declan Treanor, (Disability Service); Mr. Liam Hunt (Secretary, CSC); Ms. Leona Coady (Academic Registry); Ms Aoife Cox (Manager, Day Nursery & Creche); Dr Erika Doyle (Global Officer Co-ordinator); Ms. Michelle Tanner (Head of Sports and Recreation); Mr. Kacper Coulter (Vice Chair DUCAC); Ms. Gianna Hegarty (GSU Vice President); Rev Julian Hamilton (Chaplaincy); Ms. Eimear Farrell (Financial Resources Manager (Interim)).

Absent: Mr. Adrian Neilan, (Commercial Revenue Unit); Prof Emma Stokes (Registrar of Chambers); Jennifer Cahill (Chair, Publications Committee); Mr. Andrew Burrows (Chair, CSC)

Present: Ms. Helen Richardson (Minutes)

Section A

SLC/15-16/83 Minutes (A.1)

Apologies were noted. The minutes of 23rd January 2016 were approved and signed by the Chair.

SLC/15-16/84 Matters Arising (A.2)

Ms. Leona Coady, Director of Academic Registry had asked permission to send a nominee to attend the Student Life Committee in the future. The Dean of Students has had no response yet from the College Secretary to this request, therefore the rules must stand and only those members who are permitted to send nominees can do so until further notice.

Report on website – A member of staff who was looking after the website has left college, however Sandra from the Dean of Students office will take over. The Calendar is on the website for the SU, GSU, DUCAC and CSC to use for events. A discussion took place as to whether the calendar should be extended to services that wanted to advertise student events. There is a risk that it will become too busy and students will not use, however it was agreed that the Student Services will have access and it will be monitored and reviewed to ensure it is working. The Dean of Students will send out

the username and password to the Committee. The calendar will be put on the Agenda each month for discussion to ensure that it is working effectively.

REACT – The alcohol awareness strategy was noted and approved at Council.

Healthy Campus Initiative – noted and approved at Council.

SLC/15-16/85 Dean's Report (A.3)

Roll of Honour was launched 2 weeks ago. There will be 3 categories, Dean's list, Leadership and Legacy Award. There will be an event on Trinity Wednesday to announce Legacy award.

ISSE Survey was launched on Monday. The numbers are increasing. Posters will be circulated and banners put up to advertise. We are already slightly above last year's numbers. An email has been sent out encouraging lecturers to allow students to participate in survey during lectures. The survey takes approximately 12 minutes to complete.

Orientation – progressing well. The Dean of Students has met with IT Services regarding a software solution to improve things.

Transition to Trinity Officer – The Dean of Students has had discussions with the Vice Provost and it has been agreed that the appointment will be funded by the Vice Provost for the remainder of this year and then apply to the strategic emergency fund for funding for the next 2 years. It is hoped to have position filled in 2 to 3 months. The Senior Tutor raised concerns regarding the job spec for the position and that it would be too much for one person. The Dean of Students responded that the job spec will be looked at to ensure it is manageable, however it was essential that the role was recognised as a fulltime position. Dr. McGrath queried where this position would fit in relation to reporting. The role will report to the Dean of Students, however where the position will be based is not clear yet. The Committee commended the Dean of Students for his hard work in getting this position approved.

Oisín House – Dublin City Council have intention to grant permission. This should happen in 4 weeks' time. Registered objectors can still appeal but it is good news for college that the Council are going to grant. There are 49 conditions attached to it, most of which are in relation to the Printing House.

Undergraduate Studies Committee – There was a report from Declan Treanor and Cliona Hannon regarding diversity. There is 22% intake from TAP, HEAR, DARE and mature students in comparison to 15% in 2009 and only 5% in 2002. These statistics add to argument for realistic adjustment for services to meet the increasing demands.

SU President, Lynn Ruane is concerned that social protection are introducing case workers for BTEA candidates considering going to College. They are steering them to courses which they see will lead directly to employment or are career driven courses. The committee are very concerned that this is happening and Lynn will link with Clodagh Byrne, the Mature Students Officer to see what she knows about the situation and if any steps have been taken to tackle this yet. Lynn will report back to the Student Life Committee. Sean Gannon suggests that discussions are needed with the HEA in relation to this also as they have an access plan. At the next meeting of the Student Life Committee,

following on from Lynn's discussions with the mature student's officer, the committee will decide what steps need to be taken.

SLC/15-16/86 SLC Strategic Projects – Student Spaces (A.4)

Declan Treanor is the lead on the group looking at Student Spaces, however he has sent his apologies for meeting today. Mr. Conor Clancy, SU Welfare Officer is also part of the group looking at this and he gave a summary of the outcomes of the first meeting of the group. The group met on 11th February. There were 17 main areas identified that have requirements. Conor Clancy will email the notes of the meeting to the Committee which outlines the 17 areas that were identified. There is another group that has been set up to look at learning spaces under the Education Project and the Dean of Students will invite a member from this group to come to the next Student Life Committee to let us know what their outcomes have been. This will also ensure no over lapping occurs. Conor Clancy informed the Committee that the audit that is being carried out by College which is looking at spaces will be used to compliment the work of the group looking at student spaces. Students are being asked through surveys what they are currently using and what they would like to use. This information will be gathered and an update will be given at the next Student Life Committee meeting. The Dean of Students liked the idea of students designing the spaces themselves in a competition. The three main strands for best design of student's spaces are 1. What students want; 2. What is available and 3. Best Practice. This will be on the Agenda for the next meeting of Student Life.

SLC/15-16/87 SLC Strategic Projects – Transition to College (A.5)

Katie Crowther, GSU President is the lead on this group. This group will be meeting again in the 1st week of March. Katie will email the committee with the job specification for the transition to college post so that the committee can review. This will not be the actual the job specification, it will be the work programme for the position. This will be on the Agenda for the next Student Life Committee meeting.

SLC/15-16/88 Any Other Business (B.1)

Conor Clancy raised issue for QSOC for gay students of Russian with compulsory year abroad. He feels that College has a duty of care to these students and alternative solutions need to be found. There is a need to link in with course directors for situations like this and the Senior Tutor suggested that any students that come forward with issues like this should be referred to their college tutor. The Dean of Students said that efforts could be made to examine support structures in host universities also. The Dean of Students will raise the issue with the Senior Lecturer and report back to the Committee.

Katie Crowther – Capitation Committee terms of reference date back to 2010 and should be reviewed and updated. The Dean of Students will talk to the Senior Dean and get clarity regarding College and capitated bodies. The Student Life Committee could recommend a review but it would be a non-binding recommendation. The Dean of Students will feedback to the committee once some clarification has been received.

Student Life Committee
25th February 2016

Brendan Tangney raised the issue of consent workshops. Conor Clancy responded that once a proposal is ready he will bring it to Student Life Committee for discussion. Deirdre Flynn suggested that the proposal would be circulated before the meeting so that the committee has time to review it.

Lynn Ruane, SU President, asked the committee to help raise awareness about the upcoming activist festival. It is taking place on 12th March from 10am until 5pm. The Dean of Students suggested that Lynn should get in touch with Tom Molloy, the Director of Public Affairs and Communications to help promote it.

SLC/15-16/89 Date of next meeting (C.1)

The next Student Life Committee meeting will take place on **Thursday 31st March at 11am** in the Boardroom in House 1.